



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

City Planning and Community Investment

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City Marks Improved Transit in City Heights at Ribbon Cutting Event

Councilmember Toni Atkins Attends Ceremony Celebrating Official Opening of University Avenue Mid-City Transit Plaza

SAN DIEGO – Councilmember Toni Atkins, along with city officials, development and funding partners and community members today gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate new enhancements to the first of two freeway bridge decks overarching I-15 at El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue as part of the Mid-City Transit Gateways Project. The project was funded by a Federal TEA21 enhancement grant of \$4,255,000 and a City TransNet match of \$534,000.

"Improved mass transit opportunities are vitally important to San Diego and the region," said Mayor Jerry Sanders. "The bridge deck enhancements will help make our transit system more efficient through the City Heights area, and will not only help those residents who rely on public transportation, but also encourage residents to use mass transit which helps keep our environment clean, reduces traffic congestion and can potentially save money as gas prices continue to climb."

The Mid-City Gateways Transit project developed in two phases: the first phase included landscaping the median of El Cajon Boulevard between I-15 and 43rd Street, and the second phase brought enhancements to the freeway bridge decks. Some of the enhancements include lighted transit shelters and seating, noise attenuation panels, rest rooms, concession structures, enhanced paving and community identification signage. A ribbon cutting event for the second transit plaza located at I-15 and El Cajon Boulevard is tentatively scheduled for September.

"I am very pleased to take part in what is a large step in reconnecting the diverse City Heights community," said Councilmember Toni Atkins. "The unique design features of the bridge will create a renewed sense of pride and unity for community residents."

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Page 2

The freeway and bridge deck enhancements were designed to improve the efficiency of public transportation in a welcoming environment. Large shades adorn both sides of the transit plaza and retail kiosks have been installed in an effort to provide additional comfort and convenience to mass transit passengers.

“These transit centers are part of a new and more efficient transportation network,” says Paul Jablonski, chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Transit System. “MTS will begin new service along the University Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard transit corridors in September, including faster limited stop and more direct routes to get people where they want to go. And we look forward to the day when we can connect Bus Rapid Transit services to our network at these great new transit centers.”

For more information on the Mid-City Transit Gateways Project or the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area, please contact **Alicia Martinez Higgs**, Revitalization Project Manager at **(619) 533-5166** or via E-mail at **AMHiggs@sandiego.gov**. Information on neighborhood revitalization activities in the City of San Diego is also available on the City’s Web site at **www.sandiego.gov/ced**.

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